

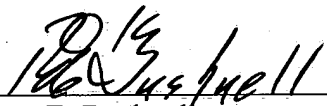
**REMARKS**

Claims 1 through 15 are pending; claims 1, 3, 7, 13 and 14 are amended in various particulars.

No fees are incurred by this amendment.

In view of the foregoing amendments, this application is deemed to be in condition for examination on the merits. Should questions arise however, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone Applicant's undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Robert E. Bushnell  
Attorney for the Applicant  
Registration No.: 27,774

1522 Street N.W., Suite 4300  
Washington, D.C. 20005  
(202) 408-9040  
Folio: P56976  
Date: 10/22/03  
I.D.: REB/wc